

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 SSM-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 /073 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7531
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1439

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KU, LE
SUBJECT: ARAB AID FOR LEBANON

REF: (A) BEIRUT 1066, (B) KUWAIT 910

1. I HAD HOPED TO SPEAK TO FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT YOUR QUESTION RE HESITATION DUE TO POLITICAL DOUBTS IN CONNECTION WITH KUWAIT AID TO LEBANON. HOWEVER, SABAH AL-AHMAD HAS BEEN MOSTLY ON THE ROAD RECENTLY, INCLUDING A PRIVATE VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA, AND I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT HIM ON THIS SUBJECT. NEVERTHELESS, THE LAST CONVERSATION I HAD WITH HIM ON AID TO LEBANON (REF. B) LEFT ME WITH THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT KUWAIT'S AID TO LEBANON WOULD BE GIVEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES REGARDING AID-GIVING WHICH GOK SEEMS TO HAVE ADOPTED AND IS INTENT UPON IMPLEMENTING. THESE PRINCIPLES APPLY TO ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT AS WELL AS TO LEBANON AND RELATE TO GOK'S DESIRE TO SEE THAT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
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IT PROVIDES IS USED PROPERLY AND RESPONSIBLY.

2. SINCE ROK IS NOT IN POSITION TO MONITOR CLOSELY THE DISPOSITION OF THE MONIES IT PROVIDES NOR TO ENFORCE ANY RULES AS TO PROPER USE OF ITS AID, IT WILL SEEK TO CHANNEL THIS ASSISTANCE THROUGH EITHER ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS IMF, OR THROUGH

SPECIALLY ESTABLISHED FUND GROUPS, SIMILAR TO GODE, WHICH CAN HAVE MORE INFLUENCE ON END-USE OF MONIES PROVIDED THAN SINGLE SMALL STATE OF KUWAIT.

3. I HAVE HEARD SABAH AL-AHMAD AND OTHER KUWAITI OFFICIALS COMMENT AT VARIOUS TIMES UPON THE VENIALITY OF LEBANESE AND THEIR CONCERN THAT ARAB ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF LEBANON WOULD FIND ITS WAY INTO CORRUPT POCKETS..THEREFOR, KUWAITIS WILL PROBABLY BE LOOKING AT MARCH 21 RIYADH MEETING TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME KIND OF ARAB FUND MECHANISM WHICH WILL INSURE THAT KUWAITI ASSISTANCE WILL BE APPLIED TO PROJECTS NECESSARY FOR THE RECOVERY OF LEBANON.

4. GOK IS CERTAINLY NOT SO OPTIMISTIC AS TO EXPECT POLITICAL NORMALIZATION OF LEBANON IN NEAR FUTURE. I HAVE HEARD VARIOUS KUWAITIS EXPRESS THEMSELVES ON LENGTH OF TIME IT WOULD TAKE FOR LEBANON TO RETURN TO NORMAL AND NONE OF THEM HAVE ANTICIPATED THIS AT AN EARLY DATE. THERE IS, OF COURSE, SOME CONCERN THAT THE LEBANESE SITUATION WILL ERUPT AGAIN AND THE KUWAITIS WOULD PRESUMABLY NOT LIKE TO COMMIT SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS TO LEBANON WHICH WOULD THEN BE WASTED AS THE RESULT OF FURTHER STRIFE IN THAT COUNTRY.

5. I BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT VIEWS EXPRESSED BY KUWAITI AMBASSADOR AL-BUAYJAN IN PARAS ONE AND TWO OF REF. A ARE REASONABLY ACCURATE PORTRAYAL OF GOK VIEW ON THIS MATTER.
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